GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:105
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2012
PROMOTION OF FOLK ARTS
Natrajan Meenakshi

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to promote folk arts and culture in the country;

(b) whether the Government provides financial assistance including pension to folk artistes;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has any proposal to set up research institutes for promotion of folk arts and culture; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which the said institutes are likely to be set up?

Answer

MINISTER OF HOUSING AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA)

(a): The Government has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) for preservation, promotion and dissemination of the traditional folk arts and culture in the country. The ZCCs have been carrying out various activities and organizing programmes at the national, zonal and local levels in accordance with their aims and objectives.

(b)& (c): Government of India, Ministry of Culture provides financial assistance to artists, including folk artistes, in indigent circumstances under the scheme of "Financial Assistance to Persons distinguished in Letters, Arts and such other walks of life who may be in indigent circumstances and their dependents". Assistance of Rs. 4000/- per month is given to those benefitted under Central Quota and of Rs. 3500/- per month to those covered under Central-State Quota and receiving an assistance of Rs. 500/- per month from the concerned State Government.

In addition, financial assistance is also provided to promising/outstanding artistes, including folk artistes, under the following Schemes:

(i) "Scholarships to Young Artistes in Different Cultural Fields". Under this Scheme 400 scholarships of the value of Rs. 5000/-each p.m. are provided every year for a period of two years.

(ii) "Fellowships to Outstanding persons in the field of Culture". Under this scheme 200 senior fellowships of the value of Rs. 20,000/- each per month and 200 junior fellowships of the value of Rs. 10,000/- each per month are provided every year for a period of two years.

(d) & (e): There is a proposal to set up a Cultural Centre for Gujjars, Bakarwals and Pahari Speaking Communities of Jammu and Kashmir.